(c) in what way will Government bring about equity and fairness in International trade policies to help farmers of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir; and

(d) the steps proposed to reduce such aspects of FTAs which harm Indian farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration of December, 2005 under the Doha Round negotiations of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), has recognized the right of developing country Members of self designate an appropriate number of tariff lines as Special Products (SPs) guided by indicators based on the criteria of food security, livelihood security and rural development. It would be the endeavour of the Government to ensure that the resultant negotiated modalities permit designation of products such as apples as Special Products with more flexible tariff reduction commitments as compared to other products.

(b) to (d) No Sir, the interest of Indian farmers are protected by keeping all items that are sensitive for tariff liberalization in the Exclusion or Negative List of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA). No tariff concessions are offered on these sensitive tariff lines with adequate care taken for protection of the domestic industry including that of farmers. Apples have been included in the Negative list of the South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) and the India-Singapore Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA).

Import of foreign equipments for SEZs

1652. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry plans to allow Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to import foreign made equipments to be used in the factories;

(b) whether employees from foreign lands will also be allowed to work in SEZs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Provisions exist in the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 and SEZ Rules, 2006, for imports for carrying out authorized operations as admissible. There is no bar in the SEZ Act and Rules for employing foreigners subject to the existing domestic legislation governing visa regime for this purpose.

Increased demand for artifacts

1653. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a sudden increase in demand by NRIs for Indian artifacts in foreign countries like USA; and

(b) if so, the details of export of artifacts in the last two years and so far, during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The exports of works